

REMARKS

The present invention as described in one of the embodiments of the invention is a data sending/receiving device and digital certificate issuing method in which a network consists of a plurality of data sending/receiving devices and can allow additional data sending/receiving devices to simply be added to the network. If a new data sending/receiving device is connected by a wired connection means to a data sending/receiving device that is already in the network and has management capability of issuing a digital certificate, the data sending/receiving device having management capability will determine if the new data sending/receiving device is capable of being connected to the network. If the new data sending/receiving device is capable of being connected to the network, the data sending/receiving device having management capability will issue a digital certificate to the new data sending/receiving device allowing the new data sending/receiving device to participate in the network.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 11 have been amended as a result of this response. Independent claim 15 has been added. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 4, 7, 11 and 15 and dependent claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-10 and 12-14 stand in condition for allowance. No claims have been canceled.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balfanz et al. (U.S. 2003/0149874 A1) in view of Hind et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,772,331 B1). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Balfanz discloses a system for authenticating a communication between at least two devices that is transmitted using a network medium ([0002]). The different embodiments of Balfanz utilize pre-authentication information to authenticate communications. Balfanz fails to disclose or suggest the processes of issuing a digital certificate through a secure communication. The system in Balfanz requires a complex set-up before a new device can communicate over the network.

Hind discloses a method and apparatus for authentication, securely generating and exchanging cryptographic keys for encryption (Column 6 lines 10-25). Hind fails to disclose or

suggest the processes of issuing a digital certificate through a secure communication that is local to one of the participants of the network.

Balfanz and Hind both fail to disclose or suggest a process of issuing a digital certificate through a secure communication with little to no work by the user. An advantage of the present invention is a pre-certificate certification accomplished over a more secure (wired-connection) provides significantly less risk of ease-dropping and other associated risks. In addition, the present invention is a very simple process for any user to utilize, since all the user must do is connect the new sending/receiving device to a device already in the network, the network device configures the new sending/receiving device automatically.

Balfanz and Hind both fail to disclose or suggest “a second communication section, to which the new data sending/receiving device can be connected by a wired connection means” (claim 1) and “a control section which performs a dynamic process of issuing the digital certificate through the wired connection means to enable a secure communication protocol before the creation of the digital certification for the individual digital certificate” (claims 1 and 4). In addition, Balfanz and Hind both fail to disclose or suggest “connecting the new data sending/receiving device through a wired connection means to a certain data sending/receiving device participating in the network in order to enable a secure communication protocol before the creation of the digital certification for the individual digital certificate” (claims 7 and 11).

Applicant submits that claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-10 and 12-14 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claims 1, 4, 7 and 11. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

All matters having been addressed in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants' undersigned representative remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains an issue in which

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the Examiner feels would be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-2448. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any overpayments to the above-referenced deposit account.

Dated: March 17, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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